

(d) *Extensions by Customs.* (1) The Assistant Commissioner, Investigations, or his designee, may extend the period for sending notice under this section for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days, if it is determined that issuance of the notice within 60 calendar days of seizure may have an adverse result, including:

- (i) Endangering the life or physical safety of an individual;
- (ii) Flight from prosecution;
- (iii) Destruction of or tampering with evidence;
- (iv) Intimidation of potential witnesses; or
- (v) Otherwise seriously jeopardizing an investigation or unduly delaying a trial.

(2) The period for sending notice of seizure as provided in paragraph (d)(1) of this section may not be further extended except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction as prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section.

(e) *Extensions by a court.* Upon motion by the Government, a court of competent jurisdiction may extend the period for sending notice for a period not to exceed 60 calendar days. This period may be further extended by the court for additional 60 calendar-day periods, as necessary, if the court determines, based on a written certification of the Assistant Commissioner, Investigations, or designee, that the conditions set forth in paragraph (d) of this section are present.

§ 162.93 Failure to issue notice of seizure.

If Customs does not send notice of a seizure of property in accordance with § 162.92 to the person from whom the property was seized, and no extension of time is granted, Customs will return the property to that person without prejudice to the right of the Government to commence a forfeiture proceeding at a later time. Customs is not, however, required to return contraband or other property that the person may not legally possess.

§ 162.94 Filing of a claim for seized property.

(a) *Generally.* In lieu of filing a petition for relief in accordance with part 171 of this chapter, any person claiming

property seized by Customs in a non-judicial civil forfeiture proceeding may file a claim with the appropriate Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer.

(b) *When filed.* Unless the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officer provides additional time to the person filing a claim for seized property pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the claim must be filed within 35 calendar days after the date the notice of seizure is mailed. If the notice of seizure is not received, a claim may be filed not later than 30 calendar days after the date of final publication of notice of seizure and intent to forfeit the property.

(c) *Form of claim.* The claim must be in writing but need not be made in any particular form. Claim forms will be made generally available upon request.

(d) *Content of claim.* The claim must:

- (1) Identify the specific property being claimed;
- (2) State the claimant's interest in the property; and
- (3) Be made under oath, subject to penalty of perjury.

(e) *No bond required.* Any person may make a claim under this section without posting a bond.

(f) *Effect of claim.* Not later than 90 calendar days after a claim has been filed, the Government will file an appropriate complaint for forfeiture, except that a court in the district in which the complaint will be filed may extend the period for filing a complaint for good cause shown or upon agreement of the parties.

[T.D. 00–88, 65 FR 78091, Dec. 14, 2000, as amended by T.D. 02–08, 67 FR 9191, Feb. 28, 2002]

§ 162.95 Release of seized property.

(a) *Generally.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a claimant to seized property under 18 U.S.C. 983(a) is entitled to immediate release of the property if:

- (1) The claimant has a possessory interest in the property;
- (2) The claimant has sufficient ties to the community to provide assurance that the property will be available at the time of trial;
- (3) The continued possession of the property by Customs pending the final disposition of forfeiture proceedings will cause substantial hardship to the